

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for monitoring the position of a door,  
comprising:

detecting a trigger event;

5 transmitting a detection signal toward a  
predetermined location in response to the trigger event;

determining whether a reflected detection signal is  
received;

10 determining that a door is in a first position if  
the reflected detection signal is received; and

transmitting an activation signal operable to move  
the door to a second position if the reflected detection  
signal is received.

15 2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising  
waiting a predetermined period of time between detecting  
the trigger event and transmitting the detection signal.

20 3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the detection  
signal is encoded.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein detecting a  
trigger event comprises detecting a light has turned off.

25 5. The method of Claim 1, wherein detecting a  
trigger event comprises detecting a button has been  
pushed.

6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:  
transmitting a second activation signal operable to  
move the door from the second position to the first  
position if the reflected detection signal is received;  
5 wait a second predetermined period of time; and  
transmitting an activation signal operable to move  
the door to a third position if a disable signal is not  
detected.

10 7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the detection  
signal comprises an ultraviolet signal.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the detection  
signal comprises an infrared signal.

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9. The method of Claim 1, wherein transmitting an  
activation signal comprises:

generating a warning indication; and  
transmitting an activation signal operable to move  
20 the door to a second position if the reflected detection  
signal is received and a disable signal is not detected  
within a predetermined period of time.

10. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

transmitting a second detection signal toward a predetermined location after transmitting the activation signal;

5 determining whether a second reflected detection signal is received after transmitting the second detection signal;

determining that a door is in a first position if the second reflected detection signal is received; and

10 transmitting a second activation signal operable to move the door to a second position if the second reflected detection signal is received.

11. A system for monitoring the position of a door comprising:

a transmitter operable to transmit a detection signal;

5 a receiver operable to receive a reflected detection signal;

a processor operable to:

detect a trigger event;

10 transmit a detection signal in response to the trigger event;

determine whether a reflected detection signal is received;

determine a door is in a first position if the reflected detection signal is received; and

15 signal a door opener to move the door to a second position if the reflected detection signal is received.

20 12. The system of Claim 11, wherein the detection signal comprises an encoded detection signal.

13. The system of Claim 11, wherein the processor is further operable to detect a trigger event by detecting a light has turned off.

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14. The system of Claim 11, wherein the processor is further operable to detect a trigger event by detecting a button has been pushed.

15. The system of Claim 11, wherein the processor is operable to signal a door opener by:

signaling a door opener to move the door to the first position;

5 waiting a second predetermined period of time; and

signaling the door opener to move the door to a third position.

16. The system of Claim 11, wherein the detection  
10 signal comprises an ultraviolet signal.

17. The system of Claim 11, wherein the detection signal comprises an infrared signal.

15 18. The system of Claim 11, wherein the processor is operable to signal a door opener by:

generating a warning indication; and

signaling a door opener to move the door to a second position if a disable signal is not detected within a  
20 predetermined period of time.

19. The system of Claim 11, wherein the processor is further operable to:

transmit a second detection signal toward a predetermined location after transmitting the activation  
5 signal;

determine whether a second reflected detection signal is received after transmitting the second detection signal;

determine that a door is in a first position if the  
10 second reflected detection signal is received; and

transmit a second activation signal operable to move the door to a second position if the second reflected detection signal is received.

20. A system for monitoring the position of a door comprising:

a transmitter operable to transmit a detection signal;

5 a receiver operable to receive a reflected detection signal;

a door opener operable to move a door between a first position and a second position;

10 a reflector, mounted on a door and operable to reflect the detection signal transmitted by the transmitter;

a processor operable to:

detect a trigger event;

15 transmit a detection signal in response to the trigger event;

determine whether a reflected detection signal is received;

determine the door is in a first position if the reflected detection signal is received; and

20 signal the door opener to move the door to a second position if the reflected detection signal is received.

21. The system of Claim 20, wherein the processor  
25 is further operable to detect a trigger event by detecting a light has turned off.

22. The system of Claim 20, wherein the processor  
30 is further operable to detect a trigger event by detecting a button has been pushed.

23. A method for monitoring the position of a door,  
comprising:

detecting a trigger event;

transmitting a detection signal;

5 determining whether a reflected detection signal is  
received;

determining whether to adjust a position of a door  
based upon whether the reflected detection signal is  
received.

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24. The method of Claim 23, wherein receipt of the  
reflected signal indicates that the door is open and  
further comprising transmitting an activation signal  
operable to close the door.

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25. The method of Claim 23, wherein receipt of the  
reflected signal indicates that the door is closed.



26. A system for monitoring the position of a door comprising:

a transmitter operable to transmit a detection signal;

5 a receiver operable to receive a detection signal;

a door opener operable to move a door between a first position and a second position;

a processor operable to:

detect a trigger event;

10 determine whether the receiver receives a detection signal from the transmitter;

determine the door is in a first position if the receiver receives the detection signal ; and

15 signal the door opener to move the door to a second position if the receiver receives the detection signal.

27. A system for detecting the position of a door,  
comprising:

means for detecting a trigger event;

5 means for transmitting a detection signal in  
response to the trigger event;

means for checking for a reflected detection signal;

means for determining a door is in a first position  
in response to receiving a return signal; and

10 means for transmitting an activation signal operable  
to move the door to a second position in response to  
determining the door is in the first position.